

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OREP (MATHIAS, CHARLES AND EAGLETON, THOMAS) US UR US XF

SUBJECT: CODELS MATHIAS/EAGLETON MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT

1. DESPITE RETURN ONLY LAST EVENING FROM ARDUOUS 15-DAY EUROPEAN TRIP, PRESIDENT SADAT RECEIVED CODELS MATHIAS AND EAGLETON FOR 50 MINUTE MEETING AT NOON, APRIL 14. VP MUBARAK AND AMBASSADOR ATTENDED. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE BY SADAT. CODELS HAVE SEEN THIS MESSAGE.

2. EUROPEAN TRIP. SADAT SAID SEVERAL TIMES THAT HIS EUROPEAN TRIP HAD BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL AND THAT HE HAD HAD VERY GOOD DISCUSSIONS WITH KREISKY, SCHMIDT, THE POPE AND OTHERS. PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD FOUND EUROPEANS "FURIOUS" WITH USG NOT ONLY FOR "STRIPTEASE OF REVELATIONS REGARDING WATERGATE, LOCKHEED AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF US RESPONSE TO SOVIET BUILDUP IN EASTERN EUROPE AND TO SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA. STRAUSS HAD USED THE PHRASE "STRIPTEASE" TO DESCRIBE CURRENT AMERICAN POLICY. CODELS REASSURED SADAT THAT THERE WAS NO LESSENING OF AMERICAN WILL, BUT THAT PREOCCUPATIONS OF ELECTION YEAR WOULD REQUIRE OUR FRIENDS TO BE PATIENT UNTIL AFTER NOVEMBER. SADAT VERY MUCH HOPED SO AND SAID HE WILL BE "STANDING FAST" AS PROMISED BECAUSE IT IS EGYPT'S INTEREST TO DO SO.

3. RELATIONS WITH U.S. SENATOR MATHIAS NOTED CHANGE TAKING PLACE GRADUALLY IN US PUBLIC OPINION TOWARD ME PROBLEM AND THAT C-130 SALE APPEARS TO BE CONCLUDED. SADAT EXPRESSED PLEASURE AND SAID HE HAD HOPED ABROGATION OF SOVIET-EGYPTIAN TREATY WOULD HELP C-130

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CASE. HE ALSO THOUGHT ARRIVAL OF CODEL JAVITS IN CAIRO APRIL 16

WAS A GOOD SIGN. IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR EAGLETON QUERY ABOUT WHAT SADAT WOULD BE LOOKING FOR FROM US IN 1977, PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD TOLD SECRETARY AND, PRIOR TO LEAVING EUROPE, HAD SENT A MESSAGE TO MRS. GRAHAM FOR PUBLICATION WASHINGTON POST, TO LET US KNOW WHAT HIS NEEDS ARE. HE SAID THEY ARE FOR "DEFENSIVE" ARMS ONLY INCLUDING TOW MISSILES, ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND THE "VERY MODERATE" AIRCRAFT, THE F-5E, WHICH JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN NOW HAVE. HE SAID HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT LIKE THE F-16 WHICH ISRAEL WILL BE RECEIVING. MIG 17 IS BACKBONE OF EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE AND F-5E CAN BE SUBSTITUTED FOR IT, SADAT SAID. IF HE UNABLE TO OBTAIN F-5ES HE WOULD HAVE TO PURCHASE ANOTHER SIMILAR TYPE AIRCRAFT FROM EUROPE. SADAT SAID, HE ALSO PUT IN HIS MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON POST THAT WHAT HE NEEDS FROM US IS EMPATHY NOT SYMPATHY. HE KNEW HE ALREADY HAD AMERICAN SYMPATHY. SENATOR MATHIAS SAID, WITH DUE RESPECT TO WASHINGTON POST, PRESIDENT SPEAKS VERY WELL FOR HIMSELF AS EVIDENCED BY SPEECH TO JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS.

4. SYRIA. IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR EAGLETON'S QUERY ON PROSPECTS FOR MOVEMENT ON SYRIAN FRONT, SADAT SAID MATTER WILL COME TO HEAD AT TIME OF UNDOF RENEWAL ON MAY 31. AFTER SINAI II, SADAT SAID, ASAD WAS "VERY FURIOUS" BECAUSE EGYPT HAD RECEIVED PASSES AND OIL FIELDS AND HUSAYN WAS "VERY JEALOUS" BECAUSE HE WAS USED TO BEING AMERICA'S FAVORITE. THEREFORE, ASAD AND HUSAYN GOT TOGETHER TO PLAY OLD GAME OF US OFF AGAINST RUSSIANS. ASAD DOES NOT REALIZE HUSAYN IS DEPENDENT ON US EVEN FOR HIS SALARY. IN ANY CASE, SADAT SAID ASAD CAMPAIGN HAS COME TO NOTHING. WHILE MOST ARAB LEADERS HAVE REMAINED SILENT ON SINAI II, THEY PRIVATELY AGREE WITH SADAT AND SUPPORT HIM. SADAT SAID THAT PRIOR TO LAST RENEWAL OF UNDOF IN NOVEMBER 1975, HE HAD ARRANGED FOR UNSYG WALDHEIM TO COME TO AREA TO SAVE ASAD'S FACE. THIS TIME HE IS NOT GOING TO DO SO. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS MAY BE GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER TO WORK SOMETHING OUT WITH ASAD. WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SADAT IS CONVINCED (A) THAT ASAD WILL RENEW UNDOF MANDATE AND (B) THAT ASAD WILL NEVER ATTACK ISRAEL. SADAT SAID HE KNEW SYRIAN FORCES WELL AND ALSO THAT ISRAELIS DO NOT FEAR SYRIAN FORCES. AS FOR EGYPT AND UNEF MANDATE, SADAT SAID HE WILL EXTEND IT FOR ANOTHER YEAR IN OCTOBER 1976 AS PROMISED AND AS LONG AS SITUATION IS STABILIZED IN CAIRO, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN ELSEWHERE. SADAT SAID HE KNEW SECRETARY HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ASAD OVER LEBANON TO KEEP ISRAELIS OUT.

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5. REPORTED ISRAELI POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. SADAT SAID HE IS NOT EASILY SCARED AND EVEN IF REPORT IS TRUE HE WILL NOT CHANGE HIS POLICIES. IF ISRAEL INTRODUCES ATOMIC WEAPONS INTO ME IT WILL FACE THE CONSEQUENCES. ARABS HAVE GREATEST WEAPONS AND WILL CONTINUE STRUGGLE. IT IS NOT IN ISRAELI INTEREST TO INTRODUCE SUCH WEAPONS. HE POINTED OUT THAT EGYPT FAVORED SHAH'S PROPOSAL FOR NUCLEAR FREE ZONE IN MIDDLE EAST AND HAD SIGNED NPT.

6. RELATIONS WITH CHINA. SADAT SAID HE HAD NOT CALCULATED AT ALL CHINESE REACTION TO ABROGATION OF SOVIET TREATY. CHINESE HAD MADE GIFT OF 30 MIG-17 ENGINES AND SPARE PARTS PRIOR TO ABROGATION AND HAD SAID THAT WAS ALL THEY COULD DO EVEN THOUGH GOE HAD ASKED FOR MORE. SUDDENLY, A FEW DAYS AFTER ABROGATION CHINESE HAD SENT MESSAGE THROUGH EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN PEKING THAT THEY HAD NEW POLICY AND WOULD PROVIDE SADAT WITH WHAT HE NEEDS. THIS MESSAGE HAD RECEIVED SADAT IN EUROPE AND HE HAD ASKED TO SEND HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION TO WHICH CHINESE READILY AGREED. SADAT SAID VP MUBARAK WOULD HEAD DEL DEPARTING FOR PEKING ON APRIL 17. PRESIDENT ADDED THAT CHINESE ARE ALSO SUPPORTING HIM DAILY IN THEIR PROPAGANDA. WHEN AMBASSADOR MENTIONED BITTER PRAVDA ATTACK APRIL 13, SADAT SAID HE WAS NOT SURPRISED SINCE KREISKY HAD TOLD HIM THAT SOVIETS "WILL LOSE THEIR HEAD" OVER SENDING OF DELEGATION AND WARMING OF EGYPTIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS.

7. SAHARA CONFLICT AND SOVIETS. SADAT SAID BOUMEDIENNE AND JALLUD HAD PAID A SECRET VISIT TOGETHER TO BREZHNEV DURING MUBARAK MEDIATION MISSION ON SAHARAN DISPUTE. MORE RECENTLY, QADHAFI HAD MADE ARRANGEMENT WITH NIGER TO BRING IT INTO SOVIET-BACKED BLOC ONE OF WHOSE PURPOSES IS ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIET BASES IN LIBYA ALONG 2,000 KILOMETERS COASTLINE "IN HEART OF THE MEDITERRANEAN." THIS SOVIET/ALGERIAN/LIBYAN/NIGER BLOC IS SPREADING THEORY THAT ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN CONFLICT IS PART OF US MANEUVER TO OUTFLANK ALGERIAN REVOLUTION. BLOC IS OBTAINING MASSIVE ARMS SHIPMENTS FROM SOVIETS. SADAT SAID HE DOES NOT ATTACH MUCH IMPORTANCE TO EITHER LIBYAN OR ALGERIAN ARMED FORCES BUT HE FEARS LARGE NUMBER OF SOVIET EXPERTS THAT MIGHT BE ATTACHED TO THEM. HE RELATED HOW MOROCCO WOULD HAVE CRUSHED ALGERIAN FORCES WITHOUT EGYPTIAN DISSUASION OF HASSAN AT LAST MINUTE, WHICH RESULTED IN THREE-DAY PAUSE FOR ALGERIAN WITHDRAWAL. SADAT SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF SOVIETS HAVE ANY NAVAL FACILITIES IN LIBYA YET BUT THOUGHT IT VERY LIKELY IN THE FUTURE. HE MENTIONED BOTH TOBRUK AND BARDIA AS POSSIBILITIES.

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8. COMMENT: PRESIDENT WAS IN RELAXED MOOD AND SEEMED PARTICULARLY ROBUST AFTER SUCH LONG TRIP.
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